

Mayor's Council on African American Elders

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Meeting Summary

May 4, 2012

Members Present – Kameka Brown, Chair, Cynthia Andrews, Gwendolyn Coates, Carolyn Johnson Davis, Marti Lindeman, Michael Lusk, Helen Sikov.

Staff – Karen Winston

I. 2012 MCAAE Handbook

Each member received a 2012 MCAAE Handbook. Karen provided an overview of its content which included MCAAE historical context, MCAAE Fact Sheet, bylaws, member's duties and responsibilities, 2004 Community Input on the Need of African American Elders Report, the ADS Area Plan on Aging, and the MCAAE Roster.

II. MCAAE 2012 Goals

Members developed the following goals for the remainder of the year.

- 1) Increase community awareness
- 2) MCAAE Recruitment
- 3) Develop partnerships with community organizations, such as the Kinship Center
- 4) Support agencies serving African American elders

III. MCAAE Recruitment

Members discussed a number of groups and organizations to contact to identify people who may be interested in being appointed to the MCAAE:

- Engage Seattle
- United Way of King County – Project Lead
- Leadership Tomorrow
- Student interns from local universities

Members agreed that all future interviews will only involve the chair. Members also requested a matrix be developed which shows the education and skills existing members bring to the commission. This will help target recruitment activities.

IV. Committee Reports

Gwendolyn announced she will be leaving Seattle in July and will no longer serve as the Legislative Committee chair. Marti agreed to serve as chair. Marti and Helen provided a report on planning for the MCAAE Community Legislative Forum scheduled for August 2. The committee met on April 26 and included Dawn Mason and Margaret Boddie.

In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:

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2012 MCAAE Community Legislative Forum

The Community Lunch Forum: Issues Affecting Older Adults is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2012, at the Central Area Senior Center. Dawn Mason will be the moderator and the **2012 Community Champion** will be announced.

Forum Invitees: Jay Inslee, Gubernatorial candidate
Rob McKenna, Gubernatorial candidate
Eric Pettigrew, 37th District Representative
Sharon Santos, 37th District Representative
Adam Kline, 37th District Senator
David Loud, Congressman McDermott's Rep.
Adam Smith, Congressman
Ron Sims, (?) regarding housing

Questions for seniors

One of the MCAAE's primary missions is to bring issues experienced by African American Elders to the attention of elected officials. In the same sense, the MCAAE strives to create opportunities for Elders to hear from their elected officials.

Committee members will be seeking input seniors and will develop appropriate questions for the legislators based on their input. Karen agreed to conduct focus groups at both Central and Southeast Seattle Senior Centers to collect input before the end of June. Seniors will be asked the following questions:

1. What would you like to see addressed at this forum...
2. What will cause you to want to come
3. Re: Healthcare reform –What barriers keep you from getting the healthcare you need?
Does health care need reforming?
4. What are your concerns about housing? What do you think needs to happen to address your concerns?
5. What are your concerns about transportation? What do you think needs to happen to address your concerns?
6. What other issues are important to you?

Karen agreed to write an article for AgeWise King County to include the questions.

V. May 8 Meeting with Mayor McGinn

Members agreed on the following agenda for the May 8 meeting with Mayor McGinn.

I. Introductions of MCAAE Members

- Thank the Mayor for past support and attendance at legislative forums.

II. Review of 2011 Accomplishments & 2012 Goals (See attached 2011 Accomplishments)

2012 Goals

- 1) Increase community awareness
- 2) MCAAE Recruitment
- 3) Develop partnerships with community organizations
- 4) Support agencies serving African American elders

III. Special Requests for Mayor McGinn

- 1) Support and preserve funding to agencies that serve older African Americans (AAEP, Central and Southeast Senior Centers, etc.)
- 2) Attend the August 2nd MCAAE Community Legislative Forum.
- 3) Develop a proclamation for African American Elders Day, in order to increase awareness about the needs and disparities that impact their quality of life.
- 4) Assist with identifying potential community members for appointment to the MCAAE.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.